

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure for an informality which has been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claims 1-4 have been amended to correct the noted instances of indefiniteness, and the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent 02-187589 to Shiyouji et al. (hereinafter "**Shiyouji et al.**") in view of U.S. Patent 4,894,717 to Komei (hereinafter "**Komei**").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Shiyouji et al. discloses an order accepting and selling device. When a customer inputs a piece of merchandise, for which a home delivery is desired, to an order accepting terminal equipment 1, the equipment 1 transmits order information to a center device 2. The device 2 processes the procedure of the home delivery and indicates a locker device 3 to deliver the piece of merchandise. When a delivery person inputs the recipient information to the device 3, the device 3 compares the recipient information with user information, and when both the pieces of information coincide with each other, the device 3 controls to keep of the piece of merchandise and stores the recipient information. When the recipient inputs the principal information after

that, the device 3 compares the principal information with the recipient information and allows the taking out of the piece of saved merchandise only when both the pieces of information coincide with each other. Consequently, the subject device can be used even by the unspecified third person, and the availability can be improved.

Komei has been cited for disclosing the use of detection sensors 15A-15N to detect the presence of a delivered parcel.

The Examiner has urged that Paragraph [0040] of Shiyouji et al. discloses that a recipient can be notified by telephone. This feature is not disclosed in the English Abstract and is not disclosed anywhere else in the cited reference.

Similarly, the Examiner urges that Paragraph [0030] discloses that the contact information of the recipient (name, room number, telephone number) is stored at the managing center (refer to Paragraph [0030], lines 4-5) of Shiyouji et al. This feature is also not disclosed in the cited reference.

Neither reference discloses that the recipient can access a site at the management center. A web server would not be permitted because it is not a secure communications link.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Shiyouji et al. in view of Komei and U.S. Patent 5,121,422 to Kudo (hereinafter "Kudo").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kudo has been cited for teaching the use of a telephone automatic answering system.

As noted above, Shiyouji et al. fails to disclose that the recipient is notified by telephone of the delivery of the parcel. Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

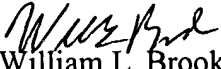
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
Marked-Up Specification
Substitute Specification

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